

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 RIO DE 03712 060225Z POSS DUPE
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /073 W
-----130825 070138Z /65

R 051616Z AUG 77

FM AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5175
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE RIO DE JANEIRO 3712

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, PINS, PINT, BR

SUBJECT: STUDENT POLITICAL PRISONERS ALLEGEDLY TORTURED

REF: RIO DE JANEIRO 3544

1. SUMMARY. APPARENTLY SOME OF THOSE STUDENTS ARRESTED FOR SUBVERSION IN RIO DE JANEIRO IN JULY (SEE REFTTEL) HAVE BEEN TORTURED WHILE IN CUSTODY OF 1ST ARMY ANTI-SUBVERSION UNIT. BRAZILIAN BAR ASSOCIATION AND ELEMENTS IN ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH HAVE PROTESTED ON EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER CHARGES WHICH HAVE BEEN WIDELY PUBLICIZED IN RIO AND SAO PAULO PRESS. IT IS PROBABLE THAT THIS NEW DEVELOPMENT WILL PROVIDE NEW IMPETUS TO STUDENT PROTEST MOVEMENT WHEN UNIVERSITIES IN GREATER RIO REOPEN. END SUMMARY.

2. RIO AND SAO PAULO PRESS REPORTED AUGUST 4 THAT PROMINENT HUMAN RIGHTS ATTORNEY AND MEMBER OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS, HELENO FRAGOSO, CHARGED AUGUST 3 THAT TWO OF THOSE 21 STUDENTS (AND OTHERS) ARRESTED ON SUBVERSION CHARGES HAD BEEN TORTURED BY DOI/CODI (1ST ARMY ANTI-SUBVERSION UNIT). ALTHOUGH PRESS REPORTS VARY, EVIDENTLY STUDENTS HELD
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 RIO DE 03712 060225Z POSS DUPE

BY POLITICAL AND SOCIAL POLICE (DPPS) WERE TRANSFERRED FOR BRIEF PERIODS FOR INTERROGATION BY DOI/CODI WHERE THEY ALLEGEDLY UNDERWENT TORTURE DURING QUESTIONING PROCESS. FRAGOSO WAS JOINED IN HIS DENUNCIATION ON AUGUST 4 BY THREE MORE ATTORNEYS WHO CHARGED BEFORE MILITARY COURT THAT 19 OTHER PRISONERS ALSO TORTURED. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, NO MALTREATMENT APPARENTLY

OCCURRED AT DPPS FACILITIES. STATE SECURITY OFFICIALS DENIED ANY MALTREATMENT OF STUDENTS (WITHOUT ANY SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO DOI/CODI WHICH OPERATES UNDER DIRECT ARMY CONTROL) OBSERVING THAT TORTURE CHARGES WERE FREQUENTLY MADE IN POLITICAL ARREST CASES.

3. PRESS ALSO REPORTED THAT RIO CARDINAL EUGENIO SALES, WHO ENJOYS GOOD RELATIONS WITH MILITARY AND FEDERAL OFFICIALS, EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN OVER PHYSICAL INTEGRITY OF PRISONERS TO 1ST ARMY COMMANDER WHO SAID HE WOULD INVESTIGATE MATTER. MEANWHILE, BRAZILIAN BAR ASSOCIATION (OAB) HAS REQUESTED JUSTICE MINISTER TO LOOK INTO MATTER EMPHASIZING LONG-STANDING OAB POSITION THAT ONLY RESTORATION OF HABEAS CORPUS CAN GUARANTEE PREVENTION OF SUCH HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES.

4. ESTADO DE SAO PAULO REPORTS THAT PRISONERS NOW ON HUNGER STRIKE PROTESTING DOI/CODI INTERROGATIONS. THIS CONFIRMED TO CONGEN BY LOCAL JOURNALIST.

5. COMMENT. THESE ARE FIRST ALLEGATIONS OF TORTURE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS TO SURFACE IN RIO DE JANEIRO DURING RECENT YEARS ALTHOUGH FRAGOSO IN CONVERSATION WITH CONGEN OFFICER IN 1976 DID MAKE REFERENCE TO TORTURE DURING INTERROGATION OF PERSONS OF HUMBLE BACKGROUND ACCUSED OF COMMUNIST ASSOCIATION. THESE CHARGES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 RIO DE 03712 060225Z POSS DUPE

WILL BE DOUBLY EMBARRASSING FOR THE GOVERNMENT AT THIS TIME OF STUDENT AGITATION AND COMING SHORTLY AFTER 2ND ARMY COMMANDER DILERMANDO'S DISCOURSE ON RESPECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS. IT IS PROBABLE THAT TORTURE ALLEGATIONS WILL PROVIDE NEW THEME FOR RIO STUDENT MOVEMENT AS UNIVERSITIES REOPEN HERE LATER THIS MONTH.

6. THIS MESSAGE COORDINATED WITH EMBASSY BRASILIA.
DEXTER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: STUDENTS, ARRESTS, ATROCITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977RIODE03712
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770283-0720
Format: TEL
From: RIO DE JANEIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770892/aaaadacv.tel
Line Count: 103
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 73ef6f61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 RIO DE JANEIRO 3544
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1697445
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STUDENT POLITICAL PRISONERS ALLEGEDLY TORTURED
TAGS: SHUM, PINS, PINT, BR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/73ef6f61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009